

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PRESS RELEASE

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CONSTRUCTION TO START TONIGHT ON HALL COUNTY AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ROAD PROJECT

GAINESVILLE, GA – The Georgia Department of Transportation announces construction is scheduled to begin tonight on a resurfacing project on US 129/State Route 11/Athens Highway funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in Hall County.

US 129/State Route (SR) 11 will be resurfaced from the intersection with SR 323 to Monroe Drive. Work will occur overnights Sunday through Thursdays from 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., as weather permits. One lane will be closed as crews work. One lane will remain open for traffic while crews work, leaving the other lane open for traffic.

The estimated construction cost of this 3 mile resurfacing project is \$1.1 million. C W Matthews Contracting, Inc of Marietta is the contractor. The completion date for the project is April 30, 2010.

“We expect the work to be finished by the end of the year if weather permits. This section of road is a four lane highway so there will always be at least one lane open for traffic. Please slow down and expect delays in the area. Most of the work will occur overnights. Since this is a major route into Athens, the contract prohibits work on Saturdays on home University of Georgia football games,” said Russell McMurry DOT District Engineer.

Georgia DOT is responsible for 70 percent of Georgia’s \$932 million in highway system ARRA funds. The remaining 30 percent is divided among the state’s 15 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and designated rural areas. The MPOs, in conjunction with the Department, are funding projects from these respective allocations. The state also received \$144 million in stimulus funds for public transit and Georgia DOT has awarded related local grants totaling approximately \$39 million. Georgia is eligible for additional highway, rail and aviation grants from funds totaling \$12.1 billion.

The ARRA is a national effort to create jobs and transform America’s economy to compete in the 21st century. Nationwide, some \$48 billion in stimulus investments are being made in transportation infrastructure, including highways, public transit, high speed rail and aviation. Georgia DOT has created a Web page (www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus) devoted to stimulus activities to provide specific program information and promote transparency of the process.

All selected ARRA stimulus projects are fully funded by the federal government; no state or local matching funds are required.

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to

inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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